

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended.

In the Office action of March 24, 2008, Claims 1 through 22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 7-23 of U.S. Patent No. 7,311,398 to Kuiper et al. in view of U.S. patent publication no. US2002/0140899 of Blum et al.

The Examiner indicated that a terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome these rejections. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, upon indication by the Examiner that claims of the present application may be allowable except for possible double patenting, a terminal disclaimer will be submitted to overcome this rejection.

By means of the present amendment, the specification has been amended to cross-reference the related applications.

Claims 3-5, 14, 15 and 18 and have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice by deleting reference

numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claim 1 has been amended, to put it in better form, by changing "characterized by comprising" to "comprising." Claims 1, 3-5, 14, 15 and 18 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. The Applicants, however, reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Appl. No. 10/563,842
Amdt. dated June 23, 2008
Reply to Office action of Mar. 24, 2008

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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